

REMARKS

Claims 1- 12, 14-16 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nordeman (6,134,450). Claims 1-12, 15, have been cancelled, thus mooted the rejection of those claims.

Claim 14 has been amended to clarify that the method of establishing a group call is performed using first and second proxy switches. Neither Nordeman, nor Dorenbosch, alone or in combination teach or suggest the method as recited in amended claim 14.

New claims 21 through 26 have been added. Claims 21 through 26 are supported by FIG. 10 and/or the accompanying text. No new matter has been added.

Applicants submit that claims 16-18 are not unpatentable over Nordeman in view of Dorenbosch. On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that Nordeman does not disclose that based on a history of group call predicting future demand and topology for the group calls and cites Dorenbosch for disclosing that future communication resources for the group calls are based on a history of group calls. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Dorenbosch discloses a method of assigning a mobile station to a communication resource. Claims 16-18, on the other hand, recite methods of establishing a group call based on historical group call information. At column 3, line 66 to col. 5, line 63, Dorenbosch discloses that affinity (i.e., likeness or similarity) groups to which a mobile station belongs are identified. Historical affinity strengths between the mobile station and the affinity groups are then determined. For each of the communication resources serving members of the affinity groups to which the mobile station belongs, a total affinity strength between the mobile station and other members served by the communication resource is calculated. The mobile station is assigned to the communication resource having the highest total affinity strength with the mobile station. Claims 16-18, on the other hand, recite a method for establishing a group call using a history of group calls between two points in a communication system to determine whether to establish a multicast session between the two points, to predict a future demand for group calls between the two points and to determine

a topology of multicast sessions to use in a future group call, respectively. The recitations of claims 16-18 are distinct from that taught by Dorenbosch.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that claims 14, 16-18 and 21-26 are in condition for allowance. Applicants request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,
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